

CLAIMS

1. A housing for receiving hot-pluggable network tap modules comprising:
a chassis for receiving a plurality of hot-pluggable network tap modules; and
a power supply for providing power to a plurality of power supply connectors,
wherein each power supply connector is capable of providing power to a received hot-pluggable network tap module.
2. The housing of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of displaceable card guides which are capable of assuming extended or retracted positions.
3. The housing of claim 2, wherein the displaceable card guides each comprise a base, two retractable arms, and a guide.
4. The housing of claim 2, wherein the displaceable card guides default to an extended position.
5. The housing of claim 2, wherein the base of each displaceable card guide is attached to the roof of the chassis.
6. The housing of claim 1, wherein the housing is configured for receiving 12 hot-pluggable network tap modules.

7. The housing of claim 1, wherein the chassis includes comprises at least one cooling fan or other means of cooling.

8. The housing of claim 1, wherein the chassis includes a backplane printed circuit board assembly.

9. The housing of claim 8, wherein the backplane printed circuit board assembly is configured to have a backwards L shape.

10. The housing of claim 8, wherein the backplane printed circuit board assembly includes a plurality of hot swappable power connectors.

11. The housing of claim 8, wherein the backplane printed circuit board assembly includes connectors for connecting to the DC output of the power supply.

12. The housing of claim 8, wherein the backplane printed circuit board assembly includes fan connectors.

13. The housing of claim 8, wherein the backplane printed circuit board assembly includes status signals.

14. The housing of claim 1, wherein the chassis comprises a barrel plug retainer assembly that includes a barrel plug retainer and a plurality of barrel plugs used to provide power to the hot-pluggable network tap modules.

15. The housing of claim 14, wherein the barrel plug retainer assembly further includes a plurality of guide pins.

16. The housing of claim 14, wherein the barrel plug retainer is a machined plastic part.

17. The housing of claim 14, wherein the chassis further includes a power distribution printed circuit board assembly attached to the barrel plug retainer assembly.

18. The housing of claim 17, wherein the chassis further includes a DC wiring harness connected to the power distribution printed circuit board assembly, which DC wiring harness includes power wires for providing DC power to the barrel plugs.

19. The housing of claim 17, wherein the power distribution printed circuit board includes a single connector for providing both AC power input to the power supply and DC power output from the power supply to the power distribution printed circuit board.

20. The housing of claim 1, wherein the power supply is dual redundant.

21. The housing of claim 20, wherein the power supply is hot swappable.

22. The housing of claim 1, wherein the power supply includes cooling fans or other means of cooling.

23. A housing for receiving hot-pluggable network tap modules comprising:
a chassis for receiving a plurality of hot-pluggable network tap modules;
a first power supply for providing power to a plurality of power supply connectors, wherein each power supply connector is capable of providing power to a received hot-pluggable network tap module; and
a second, redundant power supply for providing power to the plurality of power supply connectors in the event of failure of the first power supply.

24. The housing of claim 23, further comprising a status indicator that visually indicates a status of at least one of the plurality of hot-pluggable network tap modules.

25. The housing of claim 23, further comprising a monitoring port that enables a status of at least one of the plurality of hot-pluggable network tap modules to be monitored remotely.

26. The housing of claim 25, wherein the status is associated with a condition of the first power supply.

27. The housing of claim 23, wherein the first power supply is hot-swappable such that the first power supply can be replaced in the event of failure thereof without powering down any of the plurality of hot-pluggable network tap modules.

28. A housing for receiving hot-pluggable network tap modules comprising:

a chassis for receiving a plurality of hot-pluggable network tap modules;

a power supply for providing power to a plurality of power supply connectors,

wherein each power supply connector is capable of providing power to a received hot-pluggable network tap module through a barrel plug retainer assembly that is associated with the chassis and interfaces with a plurality of barrel plugs used to provide said power to the hot-pluggable network tap modules; and

a plurality of displaceable card guides which are capable of assuming extended or retracted positions.